

Solicitors saddle up to raise cash for charity

By Jo Barnes

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A team of South Wales lawyers swapped briefs for cycling shorts to take part in a charity event to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta.

Legal firm Berry Smith, long-term supporters of Newport-based St David's Hospice Care, covered the 165 miles from their Cardiff offices to Runnymede in Berkshire to raise funds for the South East Wales-based charity.

The 800th anniversary is being marked by a number of events over the year, culminating with events in Runnymede in June.

The intrepid Berry Smith riders are lawyers from the practice's corporate, employment and dispute resolution teams.

The team comprised Emma Borrington (corporate), Fabio Grech (employment), Paul Evans (corporate) and Jane Rees (dispute resolution). Other members of the team acted as support crew and Berry Smith would like to thank Newport business people Ian Cummings and Hayley Morton for their help and support not just on the ride but prior to in the planning process.

Emma Borrington said: "We are delighted to be raising money for such an excellent cause as St David's Hospice Care to help the charity to continue providing vital palliative care to the people of south east Wales. We are also



MAGNA-IFICENT EFFORT: Berry Smith lawyers (left to right) Fabio Grech, partner, employment & HR team; Emma Borrington – partner corporate finance team; Paul Evans – solicitor – corporate finance team and Jane Rees – chartered legal executive – dispute resolution

pleased, as a law firm, to be able to mark our acknowledgment of this cornerstone of our legal system."

The lawyers were joined on the ride by Kris Broome, of St David's Hospice Care. Kris said: "The ride to Runnymede was tough but exhilarating. We're thrilled that Berry Smith chose to complete this ride in aid of St David's

Hospice Care to mark this very important date in our country's history." Magna Carta was sealed at Runnymede, an island in the River Thames, near Windsor, Berkshire, in 1215. The document is widely considered to be a foundation of the UK's legal system, as it recognised for the first time the

basic liberties of the individual. The principles of Magna Carta were drawn on by the founding fathers of the United States and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To sponsor the team at Berry Smith access <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BerrySmithLLP>

Good news for our city

By Fiona Weaver, Hutchings & Thomas Chartered Surveyors



THE City of Newport's Vibrant and Viable Places programme is having the desired effect on the centre of the city.

The regeneration scheme is being used to transform key properties in the city centre converting some to residential and others as 'oven ready space' for business start ups.

The £15m scheme is a catalyst to unlock a further £45m of external funding for city centre projects resulting in what experts believe will be a total of some £60m pumped into Newport heart.

Schemes included in the project included a property enhancement grant scheme for the Mariners' Green and lower Commercial Street area to improve the physical environment of this key gateway to the city and make the area more attractive.

In addition, as many of the properties are mixed-use and in poor repair, a housing loan scheme has been included to help owners modernise existing living accommodation, create new residential accommodation from disused space and improve the vibrancy of the area. The vibrant and viable places project and the housing loan scheme is building on improvements already made in the area and is helping owners to invest in the long-term future of their properties.

Commercial Street is benefiting enormously from the innovative VVP scheme. We currently have two properties under offer and interest in others, which augurs well for the future. Debenhams has started its shop fit out in the Friars Walk scheme and the development as a whole is filling up ahead of its grand opening in November.

The 'existing' city centre is benefiting from the knock-on effect of these investments with properties adjacent to the scheme being snapped up by occupiers such as Burger King at the corner of Austin Friars and Commercial Street.

We have noticed a definite spike in the number of enquiries to us at Estates Office from those looking for a variety of office space and also retail all on the back of the feel-good factor linked to Friars Walk and also the general atmosphere of confidence that appears to be infusing the local economy. This month marks the start of construction work on a new access road and the first speculative commercial unit, a 50,000 sq ft speculative commercial unit, within the 100-acre Celtic Business Park at St Modwen's £1bn Glan Llyn development in Newport. Glan Llyn is being developed by St Modwen using a phased approach delivering 4,000 new homes and 6,000 new jobs over the next 20 years. The 600 acre former Llanwern Steelworks site will provide a range of facilities including a new local centre offering leisure and retail space supported by new education facilities all surrounded by 80 acres of extensive open parkland.

Up the 'Port

Storage and hosting made simple for businesses with new release from firm



Steve Davies

NEWPORT-BASED Next Generation Data has announced Data Cube, an all-in-one data centre solution designed for supporting new and smaller businesses with affordable and straight-forward storage and hosting from its world-class high security facility near Newport.

NGD's Data Cube hosting solution comprises a quarter server rack configuration, power supply, cooling infrastructure, and a wide range of high-speed network connectivity options. This attractive, low-cost offering is reinforced by NGD's tier 3+ highly resilient fail-safe infrastructure, robust ISO 27001 compliant security, and on-site engineering services. Free use of meeting and conference rooms is also included to business customers.

Steve Davies, NGD's marketing director, said: "Our highly affordable out of the box Data Cube hosting solution is ideal for smaller local businesses and cloud and web service providers looking to move mission critical data and applications off their premises to the safety and security of NGD's purpose-built data centre.

"For less than £30 per day NGD's Data Cube

initiative allows a small business to benefit from our world-class data centre infrastructure, 100 per cent green and carbon tax exempt power supply, multiple low latency carrier and ISP connectivity options, and free meeting and conference facilities."

NGD's 750,000 sq ft facility was opened five-and-a-half years ago and so far the company has invested more than £30m in creating a world-class campus. Some of its major international customers include BT, CGI, IBM and Wipro.

The latest expansion project currently under way requires approximately 100 contractors on site to construct and fit-out five new self-contained halls, which in total will allow a further 500 high-density server racks to be accommodated.

To support the increased power requirements NGD is able to draw on its 180 MVA supply, which is sourced directly from the National SuperGrid via an on-site sub-station.

The five new halls will be completed in the near future and NGD expects the commencement of a further expansion phase by the end of this year.